

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 800.911/33A
65D FOR Despatch # 169

FROM Ethiopia (Engert) DATED August 15, 1936

TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING:

News survey in Ethiopia.

Newspapers previously published have been suppressed and
an Italian newspaper is being issued which carries only
items taken from the Italian press.

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865D.911/1

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

August 15, 1936.

No. 169.

Subject: American News Items in the Local Press.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

In compliance with the Department's instruction of June 25, 1936, File No. 891, I have the honor to submit the following observations relative to American news items carried in the local press:

Prior to the occupation of Addis Ababa on May 5, 1936, by the Italian military forces, there were only four newspapers published in all of Ethiopia. The BERHAN NA SALAM and AYMERQ, meaning LIGHT AND PEACE and KNOWLEDGE, respectively, were published in Amharic, and L'ESPEIRANCE D'ETHIOPIE and L'ETHIOPIE COMMERCIALE in French. None of them was a daily paper.

Original articles rarely appeared in any of these papers, their composition consisting of advertisements, statistics relative to commerce and local prices,

etcetera,

etcetera, published officially or by the Franco-Ethiopian Railway, and articles taken from the European press. Most of the articles used in the French newspapers were culled from various journals published in France, while those in the Amharic press were translations, with occasional items of interest to the Ethiopian public.

Use of American news items was rare. Occasionally short paragraphs relative to matters of international interest in which the United States took part were published, but practically all reprints were taken from Europe. During the past five years there can hardly be said to have been either an increase or a decrease in such items, as they were uniformly few in number.

At the present writing these four journals have been suppressed, and an Italian newspaper is being issued, IL GIORNALE D'ADDIS ABBABA, which is mostly used for propaganda purposes and carries usually only items - including references to the United States - taken from the Italian press.

Respectfully yours

C. Van H. Engert
Minister Resident

File No. 891
WMC/jef.

A true copy of
the signed original

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